

AUTOMOTIVE INTERIOR TRIM ASSEMBLY AND PAD INSERTION

Abstract

A trim assembly comprises a substrate member forming at least a portion of the structural support of the trim assembly. A flexible skin overlies at least a portion of the substrate member and is coupled to the substrate. The substrate and flexible skin are configured to define a cavity having an opening. A back plate is mountable to the substrate and adapted to cover the cavity opening. A resilient foam pad contained within a pouch is positioned within the cavity to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly. The foam pad is inserted into the cavity using a tool that pulls a vacuum and compresses the foam pad. The foam pad is insertable into the cavity while in a compressed state and is adapted to expand so as to substantially fill the cavity.